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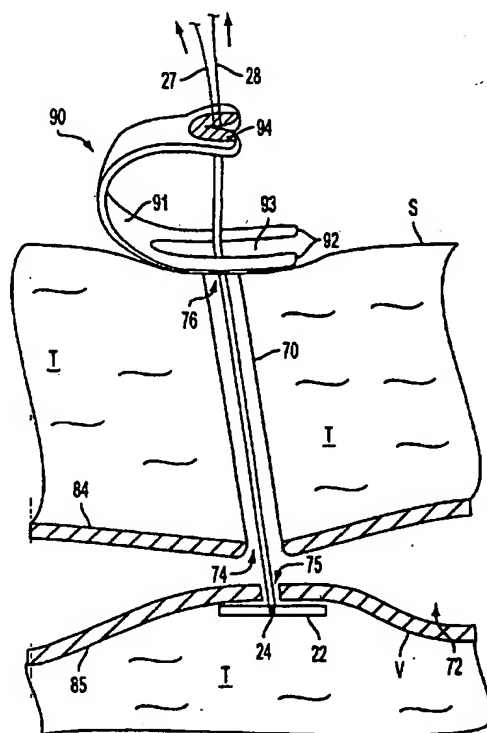
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(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR SEALING PUNCTURES IN BLOOD VESSELS



(57) Abstract: Apparatus is provided for sealing a punc-  
ture in a blood vessel using at least one device that applies  
an internal compressive force upon a distal surface of the  
vessel. The devices preferably are deployable distal of the  
distal surface of the vessel, then retracted proximally to pro-  
vide the internal compressive force, e.g., to promote coag-  
ulation and facilitate sealing of the puncture. Additionally,  
the devices of the present invention optionally may be used  
in combination with known techniques that provide an ex-  
ternal compressive force upon an exterior surface of a pa-  
tient's skin to expedite sealing of the puncture.